

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion. General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.)

Contents for Week of May 10, 1937. Vol. XVI. No. 12.

1. Britain's Crown Jewels in Use for Coronation
2. Unusual Eclipse of Sun To "Sit" for Portrait in Oils
3. Tent City Unfolding Along Potomac for Nation's Boy Scouts
4. Detroit Selected for Next N. E. A. Convention
5. Kwangsi Province, "China's Dixie," Goal of Expedition

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"LAUGHTER WINGED HIS POLISHED DART"

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HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Britain's Crown Jewels in Use for Coronation

ONCE in a lifetime—a king's lifetime—are all the jewels of the coronation regalia worn. The coronation of King George VI and Elizabeth, Queen Consort, will again put into use Great Britain's crown jewels, one of the most valuable collections of gems in existence, on May 12.

The huge diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and other precious stones in their historic settings are already familiar objects. Replicas in paste and gilt have been displayed in shop windows of jewelers and department stores in all parts of the British Empire and even in the United States.

The actual jewels have been viewed by thousands in an exhibit in the Jewel House tower in the Tower of London, where they constitute one of the most admired attractions of the English capital. A steady file of sight-seers climbs the dark, narrow stairs of the Jewel House tower to cluster like bees around a hexagonal glass showcase. Behind its iron bars gleam incredible golden crowns, fairy-tale scepters, and swords studded with gems of fire-flashing radiance, all built up into a pyramid of treasure such as must have dazzled Ali Baba's eyes in the cave of the Forty Thieves.

English Crown Once Stolen

"How much are they worth?" Americans sometimes ask to the annoyance of Englishmen. Their value cannot be calculated in dollars or pounds. For the jewels have a sentimental and historical value beyond price.

All this magnificence appears deceptively unguarded, except for the notice "Beware of Pickpockets." In their Tudor costume, the few Yeomen Warders acting as guards look merely ornamental rather than aggressive. But despite the fact that "the biggest rascal in England can come and look at the jewels for a sixpence," as one Yeoman Warder puts it, there have been few attempts to steal them.

One notorious effort was that made by an Irishman, Colonel Blood, during the reign of Charles II. Disguised as a parson, Colonel Blood made friends with the 70-year-old keeper, and became such a familiar visitor to the Tower that eventually he and three confederates were able to gain access to the jewels and almost escape with them.

When it was discovered that the gems were missing, loudest shouter of "Stop the thief" was "Parson" Blood, leaving the Tower unsuspected with the crown hidden under his parson's gown. When finally caught, instead of being hanged, he was curiously enough given a pension and placed on the King's bodyguard.

Ruby Large as a Hen's Egg

Coronation regalia includes the crown of England, known as St. Edward's Crown, with which all British monarchs are invested with their sovereignty. Of massive gold and gem-studded, it is so heavy that almost as soon as it is placed on the King's head it is removed and replaced by the much lighter Imperial State Crown. Although the latter weighs only about 39 ounces, it is one of the most valuable crowns in existence, glittering with thousands of precious stones, more than 2,780 of which are diamonds.

In the front of it glows a ruby from Burma, large as a hen's egg, which may have had a long oriental history before the Black Prince acquired it in 1367. Below

Bulletin No. 1, May 10, 1937 (over).



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

DETROIT'S SHIPS HAVE BEEN COMING IN SINCE CADILLAC'S CANOE

River traffic, led here by the founder, Cadillac, in 1701, has grown to include huge passenger steamers. Much of the traffic is international, with Canada just across the river. From Detroit one may go "abroad" by tunnel, by ferry, or by the Ambassador Bridge (left background), which reaches to Sandwich, Ontario. No passport is necessary. Because of a twist in the boundary, which follows the Detroit River, Detroit looks south into Canada. As the principal portal to that nation, Detroit has become one of the country's leading export cities (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Unusual Eclipse of Sun To "Sit" for Portrait in Oils

CHARLES BITTINGER, well-known artist of Washington, D. C., is going to do the fastest and most furious job of portrait painting in his long career on next June 8. On that date, on a tiny island in the South Seas, he will paint a picture of the main features of a total eclipse of the sun in about four minutes.

As a member of the National Geographic Society-U. S. Navy Expedition, whose 13 specialists will observe the eclipse from the Phoenix Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Mr. Bittinger will attempt a task which has been performed successfully only a few times before.

Four minutes is an extremely short time in which to make even the essentials of an oil painting, but the eclipse will give him only that length of time, approximately, and once it is over there will be no chance to get the model to come back for another sitting.

Record of Eclipse Colors Important to Science

Painting a picture of an eclipse is important for science as well as for art. An artist may record the eclipse more nearly as the human eye sees it. Such accuracy surpasses most natural color photography. A true impression of the colors of various features of an eclipse is important to scientists who study the sun, because some gases can be identified by their color when very hot. The rosy red color, for instance, of great streamers of heated gas rising from the sun's surface during an eclipse shows that they consist of hydrogen. Mr. Bittinger will note, as exactly as possible, the color of these prominences.

Fortunately, the artist will not have to paint the entire picture during those momentous four minutes of total eclipse. In advance he will prepare four partially complete canvases—one with a purple sky, another with a blue sky, another blue-green, and a fourth gray. He believes the sky is certain to be one of these four colors during the eclipse.

Each of the preliminary pictures will have, in its center, the black disk of the moon already painted in, four inches in diameter. Around the moon in each picture, Mr. Bittinger will paint a corona, the pearly halo surrounding the sun which is visible only during a total eclipse. Astronomers know in advance that the corona this year will be roughly circular.

Like Painting by Moonlight

When the eclipse begins, Mr. Bittinger will choose that one of his four canvases which has a sky of the appropriate color. On this canvas he will "finish" the painting. He will quickly correct the shape and color of the preliminary corona to conform with the actual corona, and then paint in the prominences, or great flamelike tongues of hydrogen gas rising from the sun's surface which are visible around the edge of the moon. Recording the exact color of these prominences, usually red or pink, will be one of Mr. Bittinger's most important tasks. Paints, mixed in advance, will be arranged so that he can find the right ones even in the semi-darkness (a little brighter than moonlight) which will prevail during the eclipse.

Mr. Bittinger will not use "color shorthand" to make notes of colors during the eclipse and then paint his picture afterward, as some artists have done. He

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the ruby flames the second largest of the "Stars of Africa," a diamond weighing almost 310 carats.

In the same crown gleams the Stuart sapphire, measuring one by one-and-one-half inches, and four pear-shaped pearls worn as earrings by Queen Elizabeth. They are the size of small birds' eggs. This crown, made for Queen Victoria in 1838, was enlarged for Edward VII and reduced for George V. It was reenlarged for Edward VIII, making necessary more alterations for George VI.



Photograph from *Wide World*

EVERY WOMAN A QUEEN

Paper crowns, modeled after the royal jewels, will bedeck merry-makers who take part in Coronation festivities. The actual Coronation ceremonies in Westminster Abbey will probably be shortened to two hours, but the gala atmosphere will last for days.

Note: The following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine* contain illustrated references to the history and pageantry of the British Isles: "Along London's Coronation Route," May, 1937; "Within the Halls of Cambridge," August, 1936; "How Warwick Castle Was Photographed in Color," July, 1936; "Informal Salute to the English Lakes" and "Low Road, High Road Around Dundee," April, 1936; "Mist and Sunshine of Ulster," November, 1935; "Great Britain on Parade," August, 1935; "Vagabonding in England," March, 1934; "Beauties of the Severn Valley," April, 1933; "Between the Heather and the North Sea," February, 1933; "Edinburgh, Athens of the North," August, 1932; "Some Forgotten Corners of London," February, 1932; "Visits to the Old Inns of England," March, 1931; "Oxford, Mother of Anglo-Saxon Learning," November, 1929; "Ireland: The Rock Whence I Was Hewn," March, 1927; and "Short Visit to Wales," February, 1923.

The Modern Pilgrim's Map of the British Isles, issued as a supplement to the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1937, will trace the traditions and events of British history for the student.

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Tent City Unfolding Along Potomac for Nation's Boy Scouts

D ICTIONARIES define *jamboree* warily as American slang for "unrestrained carousal." But in the speech of the 73 nations with Boy Scout troops it means simply "when good Scouts get together." The fifth World Jamboree is scheduled for The Netherlands this summer, July 29-August 13, at Vogelenzang ("Bird-song"), south of Haarlem.

Meanwhile the United States will hold a Jamboree junior—a national gathering of Boy Scouts in Washington, D. C., June 30-July 9. This is the first national Jamboree, realizing plans which were cancelled in 1935 because of an infantile paralysis threat. To shelter the expected thousands, tents have already begun to dot the greensward along the Potomac with mushroom colonies of canvas.

The "Tent City," when completed, will have commissary tents, section kitchens, first aid stations, troop dining flies—all scattered over a score of riverside suburbs, and will be one of the largest on record.

Tepees, Wigwams for Temporary Homes

Tepees, wigwams, Dan Beard tents, foresters' tents, and virtually all other types of tent shelter will compose the camp, many of them appropriate to the Scouts' native regions. Young Floridians, from the Seminole Indian country, have sent word that they will add a subtropical touch to the landscape of the capital—a hut thatched with Florida palmetto leaves in true Seminole style.

Scouts from the western States, where Indians once ranged the plains, will set up conical tepee lodges. Those who have learned scouting in northeastern woods will use the low, round-topped wigwam pattern characteristic of that area. Variety is welcome in Tent City, for it arouses curiosity and promotes exchange of ideas as well as fun.

Even greater variety has been observed in World Jamborees. Black tents of goat's hair come to camp with Scouts from the desert peninsula of Arabia, similar to the "houses of hair" the Bedouins inhabit at home. Egyptian lads pitch tents ornamented with panels of hieroglyphics, similar to decorations on the tombs and temples of the Pharaohs (see illustration, next page).

A Syrian group once made their "tenting tonight" scene more homelike with such realistic touches as a camel.

Red Fez, Sun-cape Helmet, Beret Are Distinctive Touches

To London in 1920, to Copenhagen in 1924, to Birkenhead, England, in 1929, and to Gödöllő, Hungary, in 1933, thousands of Boy Scouts have journeyed for the four previous international Jamborees. On the way to the Netherlands this summer, many will come to Washington for the U. S. National Jamboree. Already more than a dozen nationalities have accepted the invitation.

Scouts from Mexico, Venezuela, Chile, Hawaii, and the Philippines can make the Washington Jamboree a convenient stopover in their trip to Europe.

Scouting brothers from afar can be recognized by differences of dress as well as race; some subtle, some spectacular. A World Jamboree is especially colorful, with native touches added to the universal Scout uniform of khaki suit and colored neckerchief. A Scottish contribution, as characteristic as the bagpipe band, is the short skirt of bright plaid.

Scouts from France wear blue shirts and berets. Polish lads have doffed

believes it highly important to place the colors in relation to each other while the eclipse is in progress.

This is not the first time that Mr. Bittinger has done art work in the interest of science. He was engaged in camouflage studies during the World War and has assisted in camouflage experiments at the Naval Research Laboratory and in studies of color standards at the National Bureau of Standards. In the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, are some unique murals painted by him with fluorescent paint. When seen by daylight, one set of pictures is visible in these murals, but when they are seen under special artificial light containing ultraviolet light, the ultraviolet brings out colors not visible in daylight, and an entirely different set of pictures appears.

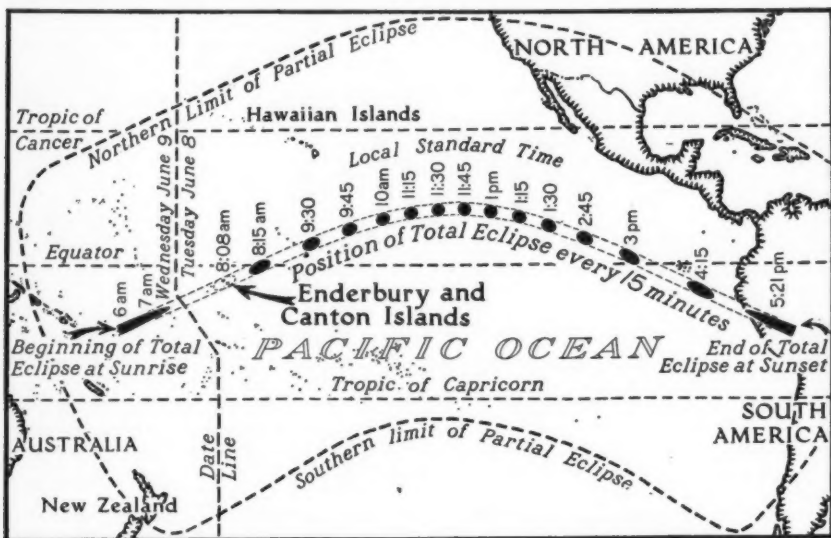
Color photography also will be used by the expedition to record eclipse colors. Dr. Irvine C. Gardner of the National Bureau of Standards will take natural color photographs of the eclipse with a 14-foot telescopic camera of his own design, and Mr. Bittinger plans to have a sailor-assistant make motion pictures in color with equipment which he is taking to the islands.

Note: Other eclipses of the sun are described in "Observing an Eclipse in Asiatic Russia," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1937; "Observing a Total Eclipse of the Sun" and "Photographing the Eclipse of 1932 from the Air," November, 1932; and "Interviewing the Stars," January, 1925.

The islands from which the eclipse may be observed (Enderbury and Canton) can be found on The Society's New Map of the Pacific, issued as a supplement to the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1936. Copies of the map may be obtained from The Society's headquarters for 75¢ (linen) and 50¢ (paper) postpaid.

See also in the *GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS*: "Eclipse To Be Described by Radio from Pacific Island," week of April 5, 1937; and "Eclipse To Be Studied from Desert Islands," week of March 8, 1937.

Bulletin No. 2, May 10, 1937.



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ECLIPSE OF JUNE 8 WILL BE PARTIALLY VISIBLE IN SOUTHWESTERN U. S.

This map shows the 8,800-mile path across the Pacific Ocean, along which the shadow of the moon will travel on June 8. At noon totality will last for seven minutes—the longest total eclipse in 1,238 years. Within the region enclosed by the heavy dotted line on the map, the eclipse will be partial; that is, the sun will be only partially covered by the moon's black disk. People in southwestern United States, south of a line running from Eureka, California, to Biloxi, Mississippi, in the southern tip of Florida, and in Mexico, will see the moon "take a bite" out of the sun if the weather is clear. The map shows how the path crosses the International Date Line, where a day is lost in going east, so that the eclipse will "end the day before it starts."

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Detroit Selected for Next N. E. A. Convention

THE Diamond Jubilee Convention of the National Education Association, June 27-July 1, will draw teachers and officials from all over the country to Detroit.

Fourth largest city in the United States, Detroit is the nation's machine shop. The energy that in New York and Philadelphia and Chicago goes into varied business and commerce, in Detroit is hitched to the wheels of industry—chiefly four-wheeled—for the automobile is truly a symbol of the Michigan metropolis. Sky-scrapers, though plentiful, are less characteristic than acres of motor plants, rank after rank of low buildings noted not for "feet high" but for "miles long."

A Third of Michigan's Population Lives in Detroit

Pill-and-capsule capital, vacuum cleaner city, adding machine metropolis, stove center, button town, oil-burning furnace pioneer—these titles the city has acquired from some of its other major industries. It is outstanding also for such diverse products as electric refrigerators, seeds, outboard motors, handmade cigars, bolts and screws, and overalls. It is likewise credited with being one of the many disputed birthplaces of the typewriter and the ice cream soda.

The automobile, however, has the greatest drawing power of Detroit's many industrial showplaces. A local estimate shows that money spent by visitors, a half million of whom annually watch automobiles blossom on assembly line stems, is exceeded only by the pay rolls of the auto plants. This motor drama is on view daily, starring, on a dozen "stages" in or near Detroit, such famous names as Ford, Chrysler, Dodge, De Soto, Plymouth, Packard, Lincoln, Cadillac, LaSalle, Oldsmobile, Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, Hudson, Terraplane, Graham, Reo and Hupmobile. Many of the trailers and trucks now at play and work throughout the country started their careers "F.O.B. Detroit."

To man assembly lines, read gauges, and pull levers in these mammoth plants, the city lured a population increase of 550 per cent in the first thirty years of this century. With more than one and a half millions at the last census, the city contains 32 per cent of the people in Michigan. So closely linked is the surrounding cluster of small cities that metropolitan Detroit virtually includes fifteen adjacent communities, among them Dearborn, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Pontiac, River Rouge, Royal Oak, and Wyandotte.

Named by Early French Settlers

Detroit is an immense modern version of the frontier settlement at a cross-roads. In the southeastern section of lake-split Michigan, it dominates the channels of commerce flowing east-west along the Great Lakes and north-south between the United States and Canada, Uncle Sam's best customer.

The French word *détroit*, for strait or narrow passage, was applied to the place by early settlers. This "waistline" of Great Lakes traffic, the Detroit River, has been called the "Dardanelles of America." Through its slim channel the raw products of the west are shipped by lake freighters in exchange for the manufactures of the east.

Fifty steamship companies and eleven railroads now operate out of Detroit. When the river is not choked with winter ice, it pours water-borne traffic through at the rate of a boat every three minutes. The floating population of this merchant fleet is served by a unique post office, the Detroit River Service; the postman goes by boat to deliver mail to vessels in motion.

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their hats and wear caps with visors. The red fez serves as headgear for Egyptian Scouts. From India come Scouts with heads swathed in turbans of white or green cloth.

From the desert country of Iraq, Scouts wear a tropical helmet, with a special cloth flap on the back to protect young spinal cords from dangerous overdoses of ultra-violet rays. It was designed by their late King Feisal.

Plumes in Hats of Scouting's Modern Knighthood

Hungarian Scouts decorate their hats with a golden plume of grass, the "orphan maid's hair," which grows wild on the plains of Hungary. Scouts from South Africa wear a comparable ornament, which they do not, however, gather in its wild state—the ostrich plume.

With such small variations, Scouts everywhere use the uniform which developed in England, beginning about three decades ago, and has been approved in the United States by an act of Congress. Typical of the festive touches by which it is occasionally brightened up is the *lei*, or garland of native blossoms, worn around the necks of Hawaiian Scouts.

Note: See "Youth Explores Its World," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1934.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "The Boy Scouts, an Army Dedicated to Service and Fun," week of March 4, 1935.

Bulletin No. 3, May 10, 1937.



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SAME CODE, SAME KHAKI, BUT DIFFERENT HATS FOR EGYPT'S BOY SCOUTS

Scouting has been part of the "British influence" spread through Egypt, Palestine, and the Dominions since Lord Baden-Powell organized this favorite outdoor sport of all boyhood. While promoting the Scout's knowledge of the world of nature, it has also promoted the world's knowledge of geography. Boy Scouts have accompanied many explorers on expeditions into little known realms, and some Scout troops have even tried exploring their own territory. Volcanoes in Costa Rica and mountains in the State of Washington are among the areas explored by Boy Scouts. Mount Coolidge, in the Olympic Peninsula, is one of the peaks which the Scouts named.

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Kwangsi Province, China's "Dixie," Goal of Expedition

THE remote and little-known interior of semi-tropical Kwangsi Province, in south China, will be explored this summer for new scientific and geographic knowledge by a joint expedition of the National Geographic Society and Lingnan University, Canton, it was announced by Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, President of The Society.

Tigers still roam in the wilder parts of Kwangsi. Large areas of the province are almost without human inhabitants, in contrast to the teeming over-population of most of China. In the Kwangsi hinterland are both plants and people practically unknown to the outside world. Studying them and taking photographs will be the expedition's main objectives.

Latitude Same as Southern Florida

The party, which will be in the field for six or eight weeks, will be led by Dr. G. Weidman Groff, professor of horticulture at Lingnan University, which is a Chinese institution with American connections. He will be accompanied by F. A. McClure, botanist, Dr. T. C. Lau, Chinese artist photographer, and three or more Chinese technical assistants.

Kwangsi, about the size of Nebraska and mostly mountainous, lies on the southern border of China, just north of French Indo-China, and is crossed by the Tropic of Cancer. Last fall it was prominently in the news because of rumors of possible war between Kwangsi's military leaders and the central Nanking government. This controversy since has been settled and political conditions now are tranquil.

The expedition will make an intensive study of the lesser-known parts of the province in the north and northwest, which correspond in latitude to southern Florida and the southern tip of Texas. These studies will include the territory of the aboriginal Miao (or Lio) tribes, who were driven south from China proper in the distant past.

Will Search for Plant Bearing Mysterious Fruit

A mysterious fruit, only vaguely known to western science, but reported to be used for medicinal purposes by the Chinese, will be sought by the expedition. This fruit is known as Lo Hon Kwoh or Ahern's fruit. It is an article of commerce in China, but never has been scientifically identified and studied.

The natural history of the region, geological formations, life and customs of the people, especially of the early tribes, and the place of Kwangsi as a transition zone between the Malaya tropics and the highlands of Tibet will also be studied by the expedition. Plants and other natural history material will be collected, and photographic records will be made of the scenery and life of the people now only little known.

From Canton, at the mouth of the West or Sikiang River, southernmost of China's great rivers, the expedition will go inland to Wuchow, the great commercial city of Kwangsi, and from there will travel by automobile for some distance, later using boats. Kwangsi has no railroads, though airlines reach the interior from Canton and Indo-China, and a number of passable motor roads have recently been built.

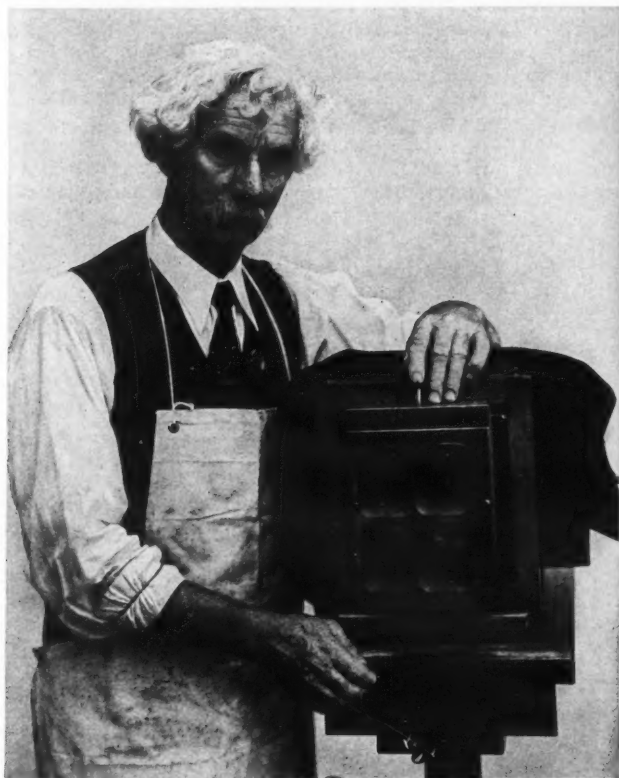
Kwangsi is one of the most thinly populated parts of China, with large areas

Such modern conveniences are typical of Detroit, for it is a modern city in spite of its two and a third centuries. Its structures are in no case older than 1805, when a fire spread from a baker's stable to wipe out the century-old settlement with the exception of a single warehouse. Its present plan of main streets radiating from such centers as Grand Circus Park and Campus Martius indicates that Judge Woodward, for whom one of these streets is named, borrowed Major L'Enfant's blueprints of Washington, D. C.

Memorials pay tribute to "Mad" Anthony Wayne, who ended America's twenty years of Revolution by taking over Detroit from the British in 1796; to 19-year-old Stevens Mason, the Virginian who became Michigan's first governor; to Madame Cadillac, whose eagerness to join her pioneer husband in the wilderness made her the first white woman to land in Detroit. In one of Gari Melchers' murals in the Detroit Public Library, she is portrayed disembarking in 1703 at the raw little settlement, then a break in the wilderness with blockhouse, palisade, and windmill.

Note: See also "Around Our Inland Seas," *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1934; and "Michigan, Mistress of the Lakes," March, 1928.

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Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

HE FORMS PART OF A PICTURE OF AMERICA'S PAST

The tintype photographer works in a little sky-lighted studio in Greenfield Village, Detroit's showcase of 18th-century traditions and 19th-century inventions. This Ford-built village, from which automobiles are barred, consists of such historic buildings as the old Logan County Courthouse in which Lincoln practiced law; the laboratory of Thomas Edison, and the Pennsylvania log cabin birthplace of William McGuffey, writer of school readers.

of land unoccupied. The region to be visited by the expedition has great scenic beauty, with rough limestone mountains, thick forests, and heavy rainfall. In the southern part the climate is sub-tropical like central Florida or Georgia, but in the northern part of the province the climate is cooler with occasional frosts and light snow.

Nets to Catch Birds, Lights to Catch Fish

There is abundant bird life. The natives use ingenious bird traps made of nets, and also have an unusual method of catching fish by scooping them up on sloping boards fastened to boats, after the fish are attracted by lights.

Tungsten, tin, and coal are mined in Kwangsi, and pottery and lumber are among its products. Cattle, buffalo, and horses are raised.

Note: China is a fertile field for scientific exploration. A number of illustrated reports of such exploration, written by leaders and members of expeditions, have appeared in the *National Geographic Magazine* from time to time. A few of these are: "Explorations in the Gobi Desert," June, 1933; "From the Mediterranean to the Yellow Sea by Motor," November, 1932; "First over the Roof of the World by Motor," March, 1932; "Konka Risumgongba, Holy Mountain of the Outlaws," July, 1931; "On the World's Highest Plateaus," March, 1931; "Glories of the Minya Konka," October, 1930; "Seeking the Mountains of Mystery," February, 1930; "Desert Road to Turkestan," June, 1929; "Life among the Lamas of Choni," November, 1928; "By Coolie and Caravan across Central Asia," October, 1927; "Through the Great River Trenches of Asia," August, 1926; "Road to Wang Ye Fu," February, 1926; "Experiences of a Lone Geographer," September, 1925; "Land of the Yellow Lama," and "National Geographic Society's Yunnan Province Expedition," April, 1925; "Banishing the Devil of Disease among the Nashi," November, 1924; "Hunting the Chaulmoogra Tree," March, 1922; and "Hunter of Plants," July, 1919.

Bulletin No. 5, May 10, 1937.



Photograph by W. Robert Moore

MANY OF THE FINEST "SPANISH SHAWLS" COME FROM CHINA

In Canton, starting place of the National Geographic Society-Lingnan University Expedition to Kwangsi Province, men and boys work long hours in dark stuffy shops to produce exquisite embroideries. Canton, chief city of southern China, is near the Portuguese colony of Macau, which is now "end of the line" for "clipper" ships in the transpacific air service.

